

# State Representative Jason Bartlett

Questions? You can reach me:

**By Phone:** (860) 240-8585

**By Mail:** Legislative Office Building  
Room 4010  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**Online:** [Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov)  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett)

*I look forward to  
hearing from you.*

Contact me for your copy of this  
year's laws affecting:

Business • Children & Youth • Education  
Environment • Health Professionals  
Insurance • Real Estate • Seniors  
Veterans & Armed Forces

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937

Dear Friends:

As your State Representative, it is with the greatest pleasure I send you this newsletter to update you with the laws passed during this year's session that can affect you, your family and friends. It is an enormous responsibility to write laws and policies that regulate our government to make life better for all of our citizens in Connecticut.

As a taxpayer and consumer, I understand the need for efficient government. As a legislator, I know our duty is to protect children, assist our elderly in health care and housing, provide for public safety and create a climate positive to business and workers alike. As your State Representative, I will work hard to make the changes we need to make life better for all of us in Bethel, Danbury and Redding.

I would like to thank you all for your participation, and I can assure you that your letters and phone calls make a huge contribution to our legislative process. It is a pleasure to serve you in the 2nd Assembly District. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Jason L. Bartlett*

State Representative

JASON  
BARTLETT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
BUILDING ROOM 4010  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

(860) 240-8585

[Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov)  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE



JASON  
BARTLETT

PROUDLY SERVING THE 2ND DISTRICT  
BETHEL - DANBURY - REDDING



CAPITOL NEWS 2008



## Gold Star Family License Plates

We eliminated the \$10.00 fee for the Gold Star Family license plates. Created last year, immediate family members of state residents killed in active military duty are eligible for the honorary plates.

## Educational Opportunity For Military Children

In pursuit of educational achievement for all students, the General Assembly passed a bill to ensure military children have the same chance for success as they move from state to state. Military children often experience six to nine different school systems between kindergarten and grade 12 and are frequently penalized educationally due to inconsistencies between states. Students frequently face difficulties regarding the transfer of school records, proper placement in courses, exclusion from extracurricular activities, and on-time graduation.

This legislation commits Connecticut to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and establishes an interstate commission to administer the compact's uniform standards for schools and local school districts and removes the barriers to educational success caused by parental moves and deployment.

## Tuition Waiver For National Guard Members

Graduate level education is increasingly critical to professional success in today's global marketplace.

In an effort to assist members of the State National Guard, the General Assembly extended their undergraduate tuition waiver to include graduate programs at the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Universities to make educational opportunities more affordable.

## Keeping Dangerous Felons In Jail

Under the new law, violent criminals arrested for manslaughter, arson, kidnapping, robbery, assault, home invasion, burglary or sexual assault—who have already once been convicted of and served time for committing one of these crimes—now face significantly enhanced penalties and mandatory minimums. For a second offense, the penalty ranges from (a) double the mandatory minimum to (b) double the maximum (or 40 years, whichever is greater). For a third offense, the penalty ranges from (a) triple the mandatory minimum to (b) triple the maximum (or 40 years, whichever is greater), including the possibility of a life sentence.

**Stay Connected**  
**Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov**

## Volunteer Firefighters

First, I want to say how thankful we are to all of the brave individuals who put their lives on the line for their neighbors. We can never do enough for all of you! In response to a call from a Redding volunteer firefighter, I advocated for a bill that will allow paid full-time firefighters to volunteer their services in the towns in which they live. What this means is that a municipality is prohibited from banning paid firefighters or paid emergency personnel from serving as active members of a volunteer fire department. This will allow the spirit of volunteerism to flourish in Bethel, Redding and Danbury.

## Responsible Lending and Economic Security

The mortgage crisis has hit many Connecticut families hard this year. HB 5577 was drafted to offer assistance to these families through the creation of new (HERO and Mortgage Crisis Job Training), and the enhancement of existing (CT Families and EMAP) state programs for mortgage and foreclosure help. This bill includes the new foreclosure mediation program the courts will use to determine if and how families can keep making mortgage payments and avoid foreclosure. The bill creates stricter regulations and greater penalties on lenders and brokers when writing loans for people with limited income and who carry higher debt. The agencies to contact regarding these programs are the Department of Banking's Foreclosure Assistance Hotline at 877-472-8313 or the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority at 860-571-3500.



## Bicycle Safety

Improving bicycle and pedestrian access was one of my priorities this past session and I am happy to report legislative success in this area. Bicycle and pedestrian access improvements throughout the state transportation system is now eligible for funding, previously authorized by law, for implementing priority transportation strategy projects and initiatives.

A safe distance of at least three feet is required in the case of a vehicle overtaking and passing a bicyclist. The transportation commissioner is required, within available appropriations and in consultation with groups advocating on behalf of bicyclists, to develop and implement a statewide "Share the Road" public awareness campaign to educate the public about the rights and responsibilities of motorists and bicyclists using the highways together.

## Autism Awareness

Parents of children with autism often have difficulty getting insurers and school districts to provide the therapies their children need. Under legislation approved this year, and effective January 1, 2009, health insurance policies must cover physical, speech and occupational therapy for treatment of autism spectrum disorders to the same extent it covers services for other conditions. Due to federal law, this requirement does not apply to self-insured plans. We also expanded coordinated services and support, including case management, for adults with autism spectrum disorders, who were otherwise not eligible for Department of Developmental Services' assistance.

The Commissioners of Education and Developmental Services, along with the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, will work to define a statewide plan to incorporate methods of teaching children with autism and developmental disabilities into programs, requirements, and training. This will improve education training to teachers and paraprofessionals through recommendations that incorporate effective teaching methods into teacher preparation and professional development.

## Local News

State Representative Jason Bartlett initiated action to expand parking this year at the Bethel Train Station. After being contacted by Lisa Bergh, Bethel's town clerk, regarding the long waiting list of commuters seeking parking permits, Jason asked the DOT to conduct a study to expand the parking lot. Originally, Jason asked for thirty-five more spots. However, after the Department of Transportation (DOT) sent out engineers and surveyors to the adjoining state property, the DOT is preparing options for the Town of Bethel for up to 100 more parking spots. This is great news!

Representative Bartlett awaits a formal presentation from DOT to present to Bethel's town leaders and looks forward to exploring Bethel's options with our commuters, the state DOT and Bethel town leaders. If you would like to be involved in these discussions or want an update...please contact Jason at Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov.



Rep. Bartlett at the Bethel Train Station

**Rep. Jason Bartlett**  
**House Democrats Office**  
**Hartford, CT 06106-1591**  
**(800) 842 - 1902**  
**Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov**

## Rep. Bartlett Announces Open Space Purchase for Bogus Farm and Secures Funding for Terre Haute land in Danbury

State Representative Jason Bartlett has been active preserving land in the Second District as open space. Jason announced recently that the State of Connecticut is purchasing the Bogus Farm land, which is adjacent to Huntington State Park, as open space land. This land is 134 acres which was at risk of being developed. Rep. Bartlett said in a recent press release that, "This is certainly a win for both Redding and Bethel and the entire State of Connecticut. I am thrilled that all parties involved were able to come to an agreement. We no longer have to worry about developers building housing on the property."

Rep. Bartlett continues to advocate for the sale of 200 acres of Terre Haute property which is within the borders of the City of Danbury. The funding is designated for the City of Danbury to buy the property from the Town of Bethel provided that the land is designated for open space. Representative Bartlett secured 2 million dollars in state funds and is awaiting a negotiated price between Bethel and Danbury for the balance needed to secure the transaction. (Danbury recently passed a bond bill for 10 million and stated their number one priority was the Terre Haute purchase.)

This transaction will also allow the Ives Trail, a 14 mile regional trail that links open space in Bethel, Danbury and Ridgefield, to be developed through Terre Haute.

In addition to these initiatives, Rep. Bartlett was a major proponent of the Face of Connecticut legislation which stipulates a plan for the State of Connecticut to purchase more open space statewide and plans for brownfield remediation across the state. The legislation offers a property tax exemption for non-profits and land trusts and any entity that is organized for scientific, educational, historical and or charitable purposes that own land and preserve it as open space.